

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a tube made from a sintered metal, the tube characterized by a longitudinal axis, having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different predetermined porosities and each region having substantially the same porosity about its circumference, the longitudinally spaced regions being longitudinally adjacent one another, wherein the at least two regions have porosities ~~between 20% of greater than about 50% and to about~~ 80% of the volume of the sintered metal, and subsequently
cutting a stent from the tube.

Claims 24 – 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the stent includes a plurality of serpentine segments extending about the circumference of the stent.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the cutting step includes forming a plurality of serpentine segments which extend about the circumference of the stent.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the cutting step includes forming a plurality of openings which are elongate.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the cutting step includes forming a plurality of openings whose widths exceed their lengths.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) A stent formed in accordance with the method of claim 23.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a tube made from a sintered metal having at least two different

longitudinally spaced regions of different predetermined porosities, the longitudinally spaced regions being longitudinally adjacent one another, wherein the at least two regions have porosities ~~between 20% of~~ greater than about 50% and to about 80% of the volume of the sintered metal, and subsequently,

cutting a plurality of openings in the tube to form a stent having multiple serpentine bands such that a first band has a different porosity than a second band.

Claim 33 – 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein at least some of the openings are bounded at a proximal end by a first serpentine segment and at a distal end by a second serpentine segment.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the openings which are bounded at a proximal end by a first serpentine segment and at a distal end by a second serpentine segment include a first side wall and a second side wall extending between and connecting the first and second serpentine segments.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the first and second side walls are non-parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein at least some of the openings are bounded at a proximal end by a first serpentine segment and at a distal end by a second serpentine segment, the first and second serpentine segments having different physical characteristics.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein at least some of the openings are bounded at a proximal end by a first serpentine segment made of a first metal and at a distal end by a second serpentine segment made of a second metal different from the first metal.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn) A stent formed in accordance with the method of claim 32.

Claim 42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least two regions have porosities ~~between 40%~~ of greater than about 50% and to about 60% of the volume of the sintered metal.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein a first portion of the tube is made from a first metal and a second portion of the tube, axially spaced from the first portion of the tube is made from a second metal different from the first metal.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of disposing a first treatment agent into the pores of the first portion of the tube and disposing a second treatment agent into the pores of the second portion of the tube.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of disposing a treatment agent on the stent.

Claim 46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the at least two regions have porosities ~~between 40%~~ of greater than about 50% and to about 60% of the volume of the sintered metal.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein a first portion of the tube is made from a first metal and a second portion of the tube, axially spaced from the first portion of the tube is made from a second metal different from the first metal.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47 further comprising the steps of disposing a first treatment agent into the pores of the first portion of the tube and disposing a second treatment agent into the pores of the second portion of the tube.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of disposing a treatment agent on the stent.